

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to more particularly claim the plate-shaped rib that forms the abutment portion. As now more-particularly claimed, the plate-shaped rib extends from the side walls and has a contiguous lower surface extending along a plane including the lower end faces of the side walls. Further, as previously claimed, the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib. Applicant respectfully submits that these features of Applicant's invention can be seen at least in the embodiment of the invention as illustrated in Fig. 5C.

As will be further discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that even if the structure of the bushing 33 and its projections 35 can be considered an "abutment portion", and further that even if this structure can be considered to have a lower end that is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls, this structure cannot disclose Applicant's invention as now even more-particularly claimed in amended independent claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that the structure of Stiles of the bushing 33 and its projections 35, if this structure is considered an abutment portion, does not extend from the side walls of the key 26. As can be seen clearly in Figure 4 of Stiles, the bushing 33 and its projections 35 are located in a central portion of the key and do not in any way extend from the side walls. The bushing and its projections are disposed between ribs in the key of Stiles. As disclosed in Stiles, "[t]hese ribs [32, 34] afford a surface upon which the bushing 33 ... is secured..." Col. 3, lines 35-37. (Emphasis added).

Applicant also respectfully submits that the structure of the bushing with its projections does not have a physical configuration of a plate-shaped rib having a contiguous lower surface, where the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib. Applicant respectfully submits that the bushing 33 cannot have a contiguous lower surface because the bushing must have a hole in its lower surface such that a guide pin 23 can be received within the hole defined by the bushing's lower surface. As disclosed in Stiles, in both of

the embodiments of Figures 2 and 4, the guide bushings 22, 33 receive guide pins 23 within them. "This bushing cooperates with a guide pin in the keyed to hold the key properly aligned thereon as shown in FIG. 1." Col. 3, lines 23-25. Further, this lower surface of the bushing cannot include the largest surface area of the bushing since it has a large hole within it to receive the guide pin.

Applicant further submits that any "partitions" which form the slots 37 for receiving the projections 35 of the bushing 33 also cannot disclose Applicant's invention. Such slots 37 in Stiles are "provided in the ribs 34" and the projections 35 of the bushing 33 "extend in slots 37." Col. 3, lines 41-42. Therefore, as can be clearly seen in Figure 5 of Stiles, and as argued in the previous Amendment filed by Applicant, the partitions, or "ribs 34", in Stiles do not have a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls. The "partitions" form slots for receiving the projections 35 of the bushing 33, and the lower end of these ribs 34 is located higher than the lower ends of the side walls 19. Therefore, they cannot have a lower end located at the same height as lower ends of the side walls. Further, these ribs with the slots cannot disclose the other claimed features of Applicant's plate-shaped rib where the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib and do not extend from the side walls (see rib 34 in Figure 4).

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claimed abutment portion that is formed by a plate-shaped rib extending from the side walls and having a contiguous lower surface including the largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib cannot be disclosed by any of the individual structures of the ribs 34 ("partitions") and the bushing 33 with its projections 35 of Stiles. This is so because Applicant's claimed abutment portion is directed to a structure for abutment with a stopper to stop the downward pivotal motion of an associated key. Stiles' ribs 34 and bushing 33, with its projections 35, are not provided for stopping a key, and thus, do not have Applicant's claimed structure. Stiles' bushing is provided to cooperate with a guide pin in the keyed to hold the key properly aligned thereon. Applicant respectfully submits that this is why,

even if Stiles' structure of the bushing and its projections has a lower end that is located at the same height as the lower ends of the side walls, it does not disclose the further claimed features of Applicant's now more-particularly claimed plate-shaped rib. The ribs are merely provided for rigidity and securing the bushing and also do not include all of Applicant's claimed features.

Applicant respectfully notes that in the Office Action, when rejecting independent claim 8, the Examiner has not specifically discussed where the structures in Stiles disclose the particularly claimed features of the plate-shaped rib. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has merely generally referred to Figs. 2, 4 and col. 2, lines 31-35. As discussed above, Applicant has carefully reviewed this disclosure in Stiles, and the Stiles reference in total, and respectfully submits that none of the structures in Stiles disclose Applicant's claimed plate-shaped rib. Applicant respectfully requests that if the Examiner disagrees with Applicant, that the Examiner particularly point out what structure in Stiles discloses all of the particularly claimed features of Applicant's plate-shaped rib in the next communication from the Examiner.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no disclosure in Stiles that keyed 9 discloses Applicant's claimed "stoppers". In Applicant's claimed invention, the stoppers are arranged under the keys for *abutment* of the side walls and the abutment portion. In Stiles, there is no disclosure that keyed 9 abuts any structure. All that is disclosed is that keyed 9 includes a guide pin 23 that is received in guide bushings 22 and 33. The guide pins and bushings are merely used to hold the key properly aligned on the keybed. In fact, in Stiles, as disclosed at col. 3, lines 16-21, the keys' side walls 19 have ramped edges as shown at 24 in Figures 2 and 3, such that the keys 12 may only be depressed to an extent wherein the upper parts of the side walls of the adjacent keys are exposed. Thus, Stiles provides no disclosure for keyed 9 abutting any structure of the keys. It merely includes a guide pin that is received in a guide bushing.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 8, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Stiles. Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 in this Amendment.

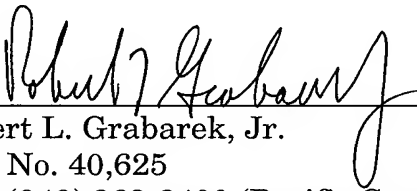
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 8-10 being allowable. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. Applicant has also filed a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement concurrent with this Amendment.

As stated above, this paper should be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 056272.52748US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: June 21, 2007

By 
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,625
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300